



NEWS RELEASE

UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

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SSG Public Affairs

MAXWELL AIR FORCE BASE – GUNTER ANNEX, Ala. – Since March 19, warfighters have dropped 21,300 munitions in Operation Iraqi Freedom. Tens of thousands more have been dropped or launched during Operation Enduring Freedom and that many more stand ready if and when the call comes.

In order to account for all munitions owned and stored by the Air Force, ammunition troops rely on the software developed by the Standard Systems Group.

The Combat Ammunition System provides the capability to assure that the right munitions are in the right place at the right time. CAS tracks shipments and provides planning data for war fighting scenarios while assuring that replacement munitions, whether for the security police guarding the airplanes or the bombs being loaded on the airplanes, are ordered and delivered before they're needed.

"The system determines appropriate storage locations, assures incompatible munitions aren't stored together and tracks net explosive weights to keep storage areas safe," Frank Ruff, CAS program manager, said. "CAS also gives war planners the ability to play what-if exercises based on locations and availability of aircraft and munitions."

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"The program is a good accountability tool, helping us keep track of requisitions, shipping and turn ins," said Staff Sgt. Todd Davis, from Barksdale's 2nd Munitions Squadron. "Using CAS makes our job easier, and frees up time to do other jobs."

An improvement to the CAS program will soon make the users jobs even easier. The upgrade moves the program onto the web and will give world-wide visibility into location and status of all munitions.

"Anyone with permission to view the data will be able to see where munitions are located - in igloos, on the flight line or even what airplane tail number they're loaded on," Ruff said. "The upgrade is also going to give the users, the guys in the ammo dumps, the capability to do almost all their tracking with hand-held work stations. These workstations will scan bar codes, track work orders, and relay movements to eliminate dependence on paper products to direct and document daily operations.

The first phase of the upgrade was completed on September 30, and all bases should be loaded by January 2004. Future upgrades, released as technology and capabilities mature, will ensure the CAS program is a fully compliant, one-stop, munitions accountability and planning program.

The Standard Systems Group provides and supports secure combat support information systems and networks for the Air Force and DoD components. Today, SSG systems are used at virtually every Air Force operating base – both in garrison and deployed – with more than 200,000 users and 3 million transactions daily.

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